



# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## ANNUAL FUR-LAW SUMMARY ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

To encourage effective action on the part of those concerned in maintaining the supply of fur animals, including trappers, fur tradesmen, administrative officials, legislative committees, and conservation societies, the Biological Survey issues a summary of the fur laws for each season. The thirteenth annual summary entitled, "Fur Laws for the Season 1927-28," and known as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1552-F, has just been published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The authors of the bulletin state that the fur resources of the country are steadily diminishing and that the factors responsible for this are out-of-season trapping, overtrapping, a general tendency in many sections to class fur bearers as vermin to be killed on sight, a great reduction of fur-producing areas, unwise drainage of swamps and marshes, and needless destruction of forests and cover. The raw-fur catch during 1925-26 was approximately 20 per cent less than in the previous year, and the decrease for 1926-27 was even greater. The primary responsibility for making and enforcing laws to protect fur animals rests with the individual States, and the States are more and more appreciating this fact, as well as the fact that if they do not make and enforce appropriate fur-conservation laws, the public and private benefits from the fur resources will diminish to the vanishing point in the not distant future.

The new bulletin gives a complete summary in synopsis form of all the laws of the various States relating to fur animals effective for the present trapping season, also those of Canada, Newfoundland, and Mexico. Regulations affecting interstate shipment of pelts are explained, and the fur legislation enacted during the year is reviewed, with all important changes noted. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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